

# September

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Magic Lantern Society **NEWS**

**2012**



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

## In This Issue

### Your Chance to:

**Remember a Special Member  
of the Society**

**Provide Information to Inquires**

**Share Your knowledge of a  
Lecture Series**

**Learn about Dating Catalogs**

**Check Out These Announcement Slides**

## Sharon Koch



**Past Secretary/Treasurer**  
2000-2004  
**Past President**  
2004-2008



Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you my best friend and partner in life Sharon passed away at 6:15 p.m. August 25, 2012. Thank you all so much for your kind words and support. Your letters meant a great deal to her in her final days. While I know it was not easy for many of you to write them, they gave her comfort in the memories of a life well spent. Sharing your memories of your time with her gave our family an opportunity to be a part of those special moments as well.

Sharon lived a beautiful life surrounded by loving and giving people and she did not want a tearful goodbye. You will find her spirit with you in the garden, on the beach, or while on a lovely stroll through the woods.

As per her request there will be no services. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Great Peninsula Conservancy, Kitsap Historical Society or a Charity supporting Education.

Sincerely,  
Mike, Adrienne & Ryan Koch

## The Subjects of Stereopticon Slide Lectures



<http://www.carnegiehall.org/Blog.aspx>  
go to page 47

On this date—December 17—in 1897, Norwegian Arctic explorer Fridtjof Nansen thrilled Carnegie Hall audiences with tales of his “Voyage to the North Pole,” complete with dozens of stereopticon slides, which detailed his legendary Fram expedition of 1893–1896—an epic journey that has gone down in history as one of the most thrilling stories of adventure, discovery, and survival ever.



Advertisement in The New York Sun for Nansen's lectures at Carnegie Hall on December 17 and 18, 1897. Courtesy of the Library of Congress's Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>)



<http://www.brucekapson.com/site/category/lantern?detail=true>

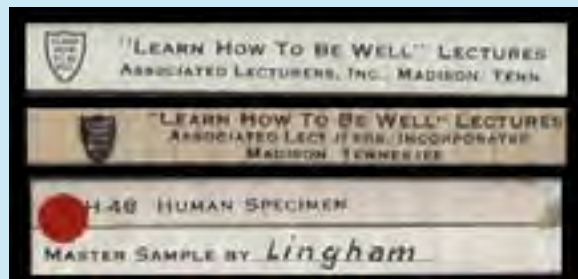
Vintage Glass Lantern Slides, made for Curtis by Edward H. Kemp, Lantern Slides, San Francisco, California, and bearing the maker's imprint, were used by Edward Curtis in his lectures and the 1911 traveling “Musicale” production of The North American Indian.

The “Musicale” meshed Curtis' images in Glass Lantern Slides with music based on Curtis' wax-cylinder recordings done in the field and Curtis' own narration, which he delivered at each performance.

There is no data on how many sets (342 slides) of Glass Lantern Slides Curtis had made but only two complete sets of the slides are known to exist.

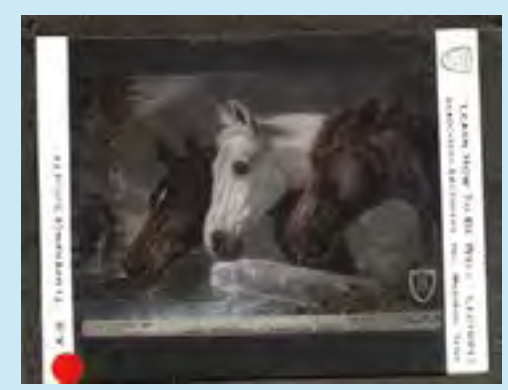


## What Do You Know About This Lecture Series?



Please share any information you have about this lecture series click here to email **LARRY**

- 1 - Group G. No.2 "Girl in the rye field",
- 2 - Group F. No.2 "Girl and Apple Tree",
- 3 - Group F. No.14 "Grape Clusters", F.15
- 4 - "Caanan Grapes",
- 5 - A.9. Temperance Society "Horses drinking" from painting by Hehring copyright 1916 by Eugene A. Perry.,
- 6 - H.48 "Human Specimen"



From Shel Izen

## Cinema Van



L0070248

Credit: Wellcome Library, London  
Better than cure : a handbook on public health propaganda.  
1927

From: Better than cure : a handbook on public health propaganda /  
By: Donald Murray. Connan  
Published: Douglas, London : 1927.  
Collection: General Collections  
Library reference no.: GC XWA  
Full Bibliographic Record Link to Wellcome Library Catalogue

Copyrighted work available under Creative Commons by-nc 2.0  
UK: England & Wales

## Catalogue of the Exhibition "Dickens in Italy"



- 80 Pages
- 52 slide images
- 6" x 8.25"
- Written in Italian and English

An interesting color and black/white collection of slide images both of Italy and images of Dicken's characters and stories.

A short history of lantern slide origins and the relationship that Dickens had with pre-cinema.

*Charles Dickens  
at the  
Museum of Pre-Cinema  
in Padua*

*now extended to 30th December, 2012*



<http://www.minicizotti.it/index.php/2012/01/14/bicentenario-di-charles-dickens/?lang=en>

From Margaret Bergh

## Dating Catalogs of the Chicago Projecting Company

From the Chicago Projecting Company, 225 Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill., we have received a copy of their "Special Catalogue, No. 15," which is especially devoted to outfits and supplies for traveling exhibitors. In its 190 pages are listed and described every requisite for the traveling exhibitor, except money, and it tells him how to accumulate that. All the leading makes of moving picture machines and stereopticons are described, but most space is given to the Motiograph, for which the Chicago Projecting Company are special sales agents. From the screen to the lantern there is not an article in the exhibiting line that is not listed, and while "Special Catalogue, No. 15" is designed especially for the traveling exhibitor, it contains all the required information and paraphernalia for the permanent show. Showmen in small towns will find the catalogue handy to refer to when desiring some special article. The catalogue is free for the asking to those who are or who expect to engage in the business.

--The Moving Picture World, v.3: no. 15 (10 Oct. 1908), p. 278, s.v. "Notes and comments."

## Antique Photographica Auction Catalog



Our Fall Antique Photographica Auction Catalog is now on-line, you can go directly to the catalog at:

<http://www.rtam.com/stereographica/cgi-bin/catalog.cgi>

The auction closes Saturday, September 15, 2012, at 3:00pm (US Eastern Time Zone) and features over 300 lots of fine Antique Photographica imagery & hardware.

Sincerely, Bryan & Page Ginns  
[www.stereographica.com](http://www.stereographica.com)

## From Tom Rall

I forwarded, just in time, the MLS August newsletter, to my nephew Micah Baskir who lives in L.A. and here's what he had to say about Erkki's show!

North Pole  
Adventure

Hey Tom,

Just wanted to let you know that we went to the quaint Union theatre last night to see Professor Huhtamo's Magic Lantern Show.

It was quite a lot of fun and we passed on your greetings. It was the first time Ashley and I had seen a

full length Magic lantern show. It was really fun and a fascinating window into the history of the motion picture. I liked how he referred to himself as a Media Archaeologist. I think that's a perfect description. The theatre was also really cool and the show has sold out both nights. So, thanks for the tip, it was a great way to spend a Thursday night :)

Best,  
Micah

An Entertaining and Instructive Presentation will be delivered

# FROM DOLE TO THE POLE

OR

## PROFESSOR HUHTAMO'S DARING ADVENTURES

*Illuminated with a  
Magic Lantern*

AT THE VELASLAVSKY PANORAMA, 1122 W. 24TH ST., 90007  
ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY EVENING, 8 O'CLOCK - AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> 2012  
-ADMISSION- \$15.00 /\$12.00 V.P.E.S. Members & Children!

By means of a magnificent Victorian binomial magic lantern that once belonged to his great-grandfather, **PROF. HUHTAMO** tells the story of his forefather's adventurous life. An optical scientist and amateur astronomer, the elder Professor Huhtamo had his share of rare experiences: he climbed the **MONT BLANC**, observed the **TRANSIT OF VENUS**, and

**GOT STUCK IN ICE**  
FOR AN ENTIRE WINTER  
as a member of a  
**POLAR EXPEDITION.**

**PROF. HUHTAMO** will be assisted by his daughter Margareta, an aspiring magic lantern showwoman and talented lantern slide painter, and her husband Olof, an accomplished musician and distinguished sound effects artist.

**NOTICE TO PATRONS.**—All in attendance will be furnished with a

**A GRAND MAGIC LANTERN ENTERTAINMENT!**





## Australian Heritage Lantern

From Lindsay Cox, our new Australian member, sends greetings and the attached Heritage Newsletter from July.

## Magic Lantern Projector



War Cry advertisement 3/11/1898

The above Magic-Lantern Projector belonged to Brigadier Henry Bailey, who, as a Captain in 1908 was a member of the Limelight Department. Bailey sold it to Field-Major David Southwell in 1917; the projector was inherited by his son Brigadier William Southwell in the 1930's, and donated to the Heritage Centre by his daughter, Mary Pickford, in 2001. It was accompanied by several Limelight Department produced narrative slide sets, many commercially produced sets.

## Our visitors



Rebecca Beens & Tamika King from Project 614



Members of the Australian Museum of Motion Picture & Television view original Limelight Department magic-lantern slides produced on this very site



Peter Wollenden from the Cinema & Theatrical Historical Society, adjusts his grandfather's Premier Pathoscope



Council of Adult Education group - Melbourne's architecture appreciation course



Marg Nelson has a break from research in the Audio Studio



Jacob Cox & Melissa Wilson watch Soldiers of the Cross documentary



Michael Taylor (architect for the restoration of 69 Bourke Street) shows Northcote 2nd College students through the Heritage Centre

## Glass-slides acquired



The slide shown seems to depict a farewell to a young officer about to depart to places unknown from an anonymous country town. The slide is one of 9 recently obtained; the others show Indian Salvationists and a group of NZ missionary officers to China.

The uniforms indicate that the slide may fit into the era of Joseph Perry and the Limelight Department, ie, pre-1909; but there are no markings on the slide mount to confirm this.

## Heritage Archives

Major Athol Jackson (Volunteer) is caught by a surprise visit to the Heritage Centre by George Ellis. The Archives area has been named "The George Ellis Room" to honour George's tireless efforts in preserving and storing the heritage of The Salvation Army in Australia.



## Inquiry



**From: Jacob Hill**  
[jacob.ah@hotmail.com]

My name is Jacob Hill and I am a 'part time treasure hunter'. I enjoy going out and finding items that have been long forgotten about, taking them home and researching the history of each item. Living in New Hampshire, I am fortunate enough to come across many antique 'treasures' from the surrounding New England states and just recently re-discovered a fantastic antique Magic Lantern & slides. Prior to contacting you, I have researched the lantern and slides with unsatisfactory results and I was hoping that you could further educate me and the item that I have.

### Magic Lantern:

- Constructed of all wood (black metal plates within the light box)
- Brass Hardware (handle, hinges, projecting lens)
- Wooden holder for the slides
- The front, projector area needs to be removed to change each slide (the wood has slots to fit the front to the main body)
- There is a wooden slide shelf on each side that fold out / drop down, held in place by cloth straps. These slide shelves fold back up and lay flat against the unit and are held in place by a small brass turn.
- There is a metal plate (not brass) mounted on top of the Magic Lantern: A.T. THOMPSON MFR'S  
18 TREMONT ROW BOSTON
- Projector front has the following inscribed (cursive) on the brass: A.T. THOMPSON & Co. IMPORTERS BOSTON, MA.

### Slides:

- 19 Total slides
- Paper label on top of each slide reads: A.T. THOMPSON & Co. MFR'S 18 TREMONT ROW BOSTON
- The paper labels are numbered, 1-18 (the 19th is not numbered) and they also have A.O.U.W printed on them (Ancient Order of United Workmen) - I know that the AOOW was founded in Meadville, PA, October 27, 1868 by John Jordan Upchurch. I have found the description of each slide and each of my slides match up perfectly to the following information that I have found:

1. John Jordan Upchurch - A mason who founded the organization in Meadville, PA on Oct. 27, 1868
2. Open Bible
3. Anchor Shield & Motto - "Alterum Alterius Auxilio Eget"
4. Emblem of the Order (Anchor, Shield with Wreath, Motto)
5. Emblem of the Order (Anchor, Shield, Motto - Organization Number - #53)
6. Motto
7. Clasped Hands of Fraternity
8. Ship Starting Voyage
9. Ship in a Storm
10. Shipwreck
11. Lifeboat Entering the Harbor
12. Manhood



13. Pyramid Symbolizing Mans Four Relationships in Life (Future Life, God, Eternity, Family and fellow-men)
14. Death
15. Widow and Orphans (for whom NO provisions were made)
16. Widow and Orphans (for whom provisions WERE made)
17. Prayer
18. Angel Bending Over A Child
19. Optional Series "The Rock of Ages"

### Light Bulb:

- There is the original paper label - BUCKEYE MAZDA (with the deer / stag head in the middle). A wonderful bulb.

I understand that it is difficult to give me any further info without seeing the actual items (in photographs) but I wanted to ask you permission prior to sending any along. If you would be interested in seeing some photographs of the slides and the Magic Lantern, I will send them in a following email in hopes that you could help me further my research on this fantastic antique.

I appreciate you time today and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Jacob Hill

*Responses next page*



## Responses to Inquiry

### From Kentwood

This is a very odd lantern which I have never seen before. I think it is possibly home-made, with lenses purchased from a lantern manufacturer. In fact, it is possible that the lantern body is made from a carrying case originally made to carry another lantern, from which parts may have been cannibalized. It appears that you have to slide the front part with the focusing lens forward slightly to insert the slide in the slot in front of the condenser lens (the large thick lens in the main body of the lantern). There may have been more than one condenser to accommodate different focal lengths. Its purpose is to concentrate the light on the center of the slide, while the image is focused with the brass lens in front. In many lanterns, there is a bellows apparatus in front of the condenser to change the focal length, depending on the room size. It appears in this case that the sliding section with the focusing lens substitutes for the bellows. It is very hard to date this, because the light bulb could be later than the lantern and from a different manufacturer from the lenses. Since it has no chimney for smoke to exit, it is likely it was electric from the start, so that would date it to late 1890s to 1910 or so.

The slides appear to be a made-up set, with an odd mixture of fraternal symbols and others like the photograph of the Apollo Belvidere, which is a statue in the Vatican, a Roman copy of an ancient Greek statue. Other slides with scenes of family life appear to be artwork by Josoph Boggs Beale, the leading lantern-slide artist, and come from one or more other sets. Some of the other people copied on this message may be able to give you more information.

Very likely the bulb still works--bulbs from this era were practically indestructible. The main concern

would be the condition of the cord--you don't want to electrocute yourself because of a frayed cord. I would give it a try and see how it projects. The bulb will get very hot, as it probably is 500 watts, so avoid keeping it on too long.

As far as value is concerned, the lantern is unusual, but not highly appealing visually, so it might get \$50-\$100 on Ebay. The slides are all relatively common ones, so maybe would fetch about \$5.00 each. So keeping it as an unique item probably is better than trying to make much money from it.

### From Ron Easterday

Jacob, I can add a few tidbits to all of Kentwood helpful comments -

There is a brief entry on the A.T Thompson company in the British society Encyclopaedia of the Lantern, attached.

The M.C. Lilley Co. of Columbus Ohio was a large manufacturer and distributor of lanterns and lantern slides for fraternal groups - a single page of their 53 page 1899 catalog is attached. For most groups, they list the full slide set and costs. As you see under the AOUW listing, apparently MC Lilley did not have rights to distribute the AOUW slides.

I have another small catalog, undated, titled "List of Slides Used in Secrete Societies" and AOUW slides are not mentioned.

As Kentwood mentioned, many fraternal sides are not all that interesting, and slides for the masons, Knights of Pythias, and Odd Fellows, for example, are pretty common on e-bay. But there were so many different groups.

What can get interesting is researching the history of early political and labor movement groups that formed and used these slides. One source that I found valuable for researching early labor movements is the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations - the catalog of their special collections library (Kheel Center) is on-line.

best regards,

Ron Easterday

### From Jacob Hill Hello Kentwood and Group,

Kentwood - Thank you kindly for your informative response. With the research that I had done, I realized that the organization would watch these slides regularly (as fun as that sounds...) and unfortunately, some of the slides do show that continual us. However, I think that the subject matter and having the complete set according to the literature (first email) which detailed each slide was wonderful to find still together a group.

What I am curious about is the age of the slides and the Magic Lantern. Again, the cord has a patent date of 1899 but perhaps the cord is not the original? I forgot to mention that there is an addition glass piece (that sits in front of the light bulb / lamp) which has thicker glass than the one inside of the unit now and the two are interchangeable. I am very tempted to plug in the cord and see if the unit works because I would love to see these slides projected on the wall but I was wondering if you would you have any reservations about doing so?

*continued next page*

## A Nice Complement to Society Members

As Seen On



### Information Listed on Ebay

RARE Antique MAGIC LANTERN PROJECTOR w/ Complete Set of AOOW Glass Slides: Up for auction is one of my favorite all time 'finds'. This unusual Antique Magic Lantern Projector and complete set of 19 Glass Slides has intrigue my imagination and curiosity as I look into the history of it because of its unique qualities which are not representative of these antique magic lanterns / projectors. After extensive research on my own, I ended up contacting the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada.

The folks were very informative and simply a wonderful group of individuals. I had sent pictures of the lantern and slides to this society and the editor of the Magic Lantern Gazette asked my permission to publish my photos in their e-newsletter to silicate further information from their members (which I gladly agreed to). Another member offered the following information:

This is a very odd lantern which I have never seen before. I think it is possibly home-made, with lenses purchased from a lantern manufacturer. There may have been more than one condenser to accommodate different focal lengths. Its purpose is to concentrate the light on the center of the slide, while the image is focused with the brass lens in front. It is very hard to date this, because the light bulb could be later than the lantern and from a different manufacturer from the lenses. Since it has no chimney for smoke to exit, it is likely it was electric from the start, so that would date it to late 1890s to 1910 or so.

Slides with scenes of family life appear to be artwork by Josoph Boggs Beale, the leading lantern-slide artist

Very likely the bulb still works--bulbs from this era were practically indestructible. The bulb will get very hot so avoid keeping it on too long.

### Kentwood and Group Continued

Also, does a lantern and set of slides of this type / subject matter have any value associated with it? I looked through eBay and other online selling sights and because I couldn't find a similar comparison, it's hard for me to tell. I will certainly check out the link that you have attached and again, I appreciate all the information that you have provided as well as your time. If you would like to see any more photographs or if you are curious about any other details, I will be happy to answer them to the best of my knowledge.

Thank you again,

Jacob

*I appreciate the groups responses and shared information and I am honored to have my 'find' and photographs included in the next newsletter.*

*Again, thank you all.*

*Best wishes,*

*Jacob Hill*



## Masonic Lantern Slides Query

**From: Trevor W. McKeown**

Our holdings contain three incomplete sets of glass slides, depicting the various symbols of the three degrees of initiation into Freemasonry as well as several political slides and a selection of Order of Eastern Star images.



Similar in subject and design, they were manufactured variously by Victor Animatograph Co, Davenport, Iowa; Ihling Bros. Everard Co., Kalamazoo, Michigan; and M.C. Lilley & Co., Columbus, Ohio. Most of the illustrations are facsimiles or knock offs of Amos Doolittle's 1819 illustrations for Jeremy L. Cross's "True Masonic Chart", but the slides probably date from the late 1920s.

David Lettelier has a very superficial overview uploaded to phoenixmasonry.org. He doesn't provide any real information, although he notes without citation that there are a total of 117 slides for the three degrees and over 500 for all the related organizations. Although I've scanned our collection, I haven't completed a survey yet. But between the three sets--one of 24, one of 120 and one

of 54--we may have a complete set of the three degrees.

I am looking for any information on other holdings, published research, available catalogues or indication that some proper study has been made. I don't want to be re-inventing the wheel here.

Any assistance you may offer will be gratefully received.

Regards,

Trevor W. McKeown, GH  
[\[mailto:admin@freemasonry.bcy.ca\]](mailto:admin@freemasonry.bcy.ca)

Curator  
Library and Archives  
Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon  
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons  
1495 W. 8th Ave.  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V6H 1C9 Canada

Please share if you responded to  
Trevor's inquiry.  
[designerlc@comcast.net](mailto:designerlc@comcast.net)

**From Kentwood Wells**

### Questions about a Victor Animatograph

Hello,  
I found your contact information on the Magic Lantern Society website. My brother has a Victor Animatograph projector that seems to be similar to the kind of devices your website describes. It appears to be complete: lens, housing and arc-light, power supply, wooden slide holder and a handful of glass slides about 2" square. It's all in a leather suitcase-like box. There are no instructions or other papers, however. Can you tell us anything about the history of this machine? Does anyone collect or use them? My brother got it while helping a friend clean out an old barn. He didn't think it was right to just throw it away, but doesn't know what to do with it now. Thanks in advance for any information or suggestions you can give us.

Scott McIntyre  
16700 NW 48th Street  
Raymond, NE 68428-4209  
[scott.mcintyre.neb@gmail.com](mailto:scott.mcintyre.neb@gmail.com)

### Response from Kentwood

The projector you have is a rather late model magic lantern or "stereopticon" probably from after 1910. I could tell you more if you can take a picture and email it to me. May be someone else who can provide more detailed information.

Please share if you responded to  
Scott's inquiry.  
[designerlc@comcast.net](mailto:designerlc@comcast.net)

*A Big Thank You to the following:*

**Margaret Bergh  
Lindsay Cox  
Ron Easterday  
Bob Hall  
Shel Izen  
Tom Rall  
Kentwood D. Wells**

*for contributing to this month's issue.*

**Now it's your turn to share!**

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?  
If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

**E-mail Larry**



See the Magic Lantern Gazette for published original research articles.  
Current issues published as part of society membership.  
All back issues of the Gazette up through 2011 can now be accessed online in PDF format at:

<http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/online-materials/magic-lantern-pub>

**Welcome New Members**

**Fisher, Jackie**

23006 67th PL West  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-2708  
425-744-0639  
Advertising agency/commercial production

[jackie@jackiefishermarketing.com](mailto:jackie@jackiefishermarketing.com)

Interests: Williams family traveling magic lantern show 1901-1904.

**Member Updates/Change of Contact Information**

**Byrne, Rob**

2001 42nd Ave  
Oakland CA 94601-4201

**Cover Glass for Brenograph Slides**

**From Thomas J. Mathiesen**

Dear Bob:

With reference to our exchange a month or so ago about the difficulty of acquiring replacement cover glasses for cracked Brenograph and lantern slides, I thought you might be interested to know I found a company that can make these. I acquired 100 in each size (1 x 126 x 101 mm for the Brenograph and 1 x 100 x 82 mm for the lantern, with a tolerance of +/- 0.5 mm) and have begun using them to fix the damaged ones in the Embassy collection. They're perfect and weren't all that expensive: \$1.95 each for the Brenograph size and \$1.75 each for the lantern size. I don't know if the price might have been somewhat higher for a smaller order, but if so, I don't think it would be very much.

In any case, I wanted to let you know about the company in case you'd like to acquire some for yourself or let others in the Magic Lantern Society know about this resource. The company is S. I. Howard Glass Co., Inc., 379 Southwest Cutoff, Worcester, MA 01604 (URL <<http://www.howardglass.com>>). My contact there is Jason Perch, who has been extremely nice and helpful. The cover glasses are made of Schott B270 Drawn Crown Glass (you'll see a link to this on the left side of the page), "by far the most optically clear sheet glass on the market."

It turns out they can also make front-surface mirrors. Wishing you all the best,  
Tom  
[tjmathiesen@bluemarble.net](mailto:tjmathiesen@bluemarble.net)